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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2003**

Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 ss. 17A, 80 and 104, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) have scheduled hearings on the following regulatory proposals. Contact DMF for draft regulations and further details.

***Marine Fisheries* proposes an effort control plan in Outer Cape Cod (OCC) for the commercial lobster fishery to meet the objectives of the current Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission management plan under Addendum III to Amendment 3 (322 CMR 7.00).** Two separate plans will be proposed:

1. **ASMFC approved plan drafted by OCC LCMT:**
 - (a) eligibility limited to those having fished traps for two consecutive months during Jan 1999 – Dec. 2000 in OCC fishery;
 - (b) trap allocation based on 2000 catch report statistics;
 - (c) during Jan 1- March 31 all gear must be brought ashore;
 - (d) transferred licenses with an OCLMA fishing history would receive a starting trap allotment based on that history while participants entering the OCLMA fishery in 2001 would receive a trap allotment based traps fished during 2001. These allotments will be apportioned from a percentage of the overall trap cap, not to exceed 2% of the total
 - (e) 10% reduction in traps upon transfer;
 - (f) active reductions for every permit holder would be enacted before 2008 if 25% overall reduction is not achieved;
 - (g) new participants would require transferred traps from an existing participant.
2. ***Marine Fisheries* proposed plan:**
 - (a) eligibility limited to those having fished traps during Jan 1999 - December 2000 in OCC fishery. Any permit holder who dropped OCC from permit since 2000 would be ineligible;
 - (b) trap allocation based on average over 5 years (97-01) of yearly maximum traps fished;
 - (c) during Jan 1- March 31 all gear must be brought ashore;
 - (d) any fishermen having received permit during the 5-year period can appeal to have the previous owner's history ignored;
 - (e) transferable traps would be limited to number of traps commensurate with the average poundage based on DMF published data;
 - (f) traps would be transferred in minimum blocks of 50 traps;
 - (g) 10% reduction in traps upon transfer;
 - (h) active reductions for every permit holder would be enacted before 2008 if 25% overall reduction is not achieved.
 - (i) new participants would require transferred traps from an existing participant

A public hearing has been scheduled:

Wednesday, September 24, 2003 (7PM) at the Forestdale School (151 Route 130).

Comments received by e-mail, fax or mail will be accepted until 5PM on Friday, September 26, 2003.

For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.